

From: belonlord@juno.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/10/02 7:22am
Subject: Microsoft penalty

Dear Sirs,

It is ludicrous to believe for one moment that allowing Microsoft (MS) to donate its old stockpiles of outdated computer hardware and software to "underprivileged schools" is an appropriate penalty for a decade long multi billion dollar monopoly that to this very minute is still exercising its dominating influence around the world in every arena of the computer field. From component manufacturers to OEM's to distributors the computer industry is wrapped around microsoft's little finger. The latest release of windows xp is excellent example of the continuing violations of its unethical and unfair behavior. Windows XP purposely was designed so that AOL's internet browser would not function or even appear on the windows startup screen. AOL was forced to create a new revision that would work with WinXP and then had to try to bargain with OEM's to include it as a option on their preloaded retail computers. Please look beyond the short sightedness of the nine states agreeing to this paltry "fine" and take action to enforce a real penalty that removes MS ability to continue in such a dominating manner. Ten to fifteen year old computers and softwares will do nothing to increase the education of disadvantaged children primarily because none of it is compatible with anything that MS current produces. Such an education in nothing is a waste of childrens valuable learning time and an insult to intelligent parents everywhere.

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